

friars like devils, when in the days of my Lord Bishop of Armagh (FitzRalph) they paid his costs in his suit against them. But now Herod and Pilate, who before were enemies, have become friends.'<sup>x</sup>

The beneficed clergy and the friars by no means composed the whole force of the Church. The clerks in minor orders were an important item. Their name was legion and their occupations were many. Part of them were engaged as teachers in the numerous grammar schools of the country. So little do we know of the educational world in which they lived, that the very existence of the mediaeval grammar school until quite lately escaped the notice of historians. The clerical influence was still so great among those who made their living by the pen, that the clerks employed by landowners and merchants were most of them 'clerks' in the original sense of the word; they were generally in holy orders. Their shaven crown marked them off from the laity, and the legal privileges which the priest enjoyed were theirs too. It is probable that this circumstance gave the Church, during the religious struggles, at least one supporter in every large household of the upper and middle classes. The 'clerk' \* has gained by the secularisation of his employment, but at the time he must have felt that the Reformation deprived him of certain immunities and of a particular status.

Another large class of unbeneficed clergy were engaged in employments more akin to their sacred character. Lords, knights and ladies had their private chaplains, and there was a daily increasing demand for chantry priests to say masses for souls. A separate chapel or altar was usually assigned to them for their use, but they were often expected to assist in the choir-service of the whole church where their private employment lay.<sup>2</sup> But the life must nevertheless have been easy, and, in proportion to the duties required, the profession was at least as well paid as that of the village clergyman. According to the statutes that attempted to regulate clerical wages, the yearly stipend of the chantry priest was only a little below that of his brother in charge of the parish, nor was there anything to prevent the 'annueller,' as he was

<sup>1</sup> *Fasc. Z.* 284.  
206.

« Lyndvood, 70; Cutts,